



W4WNT	Bill Turner	President
W4JG	Jack Guion	Vice-Pres.
W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
-	Lloyd Burt	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Presidential Ponderings

Another Charlotte Hamfest is going into the books as we put this issue of the Pileup together. Thanks to Ted Goldthorpe for his great work in getting sponsorship of the Hamfest and a couple of great forums from Bob Heil as well as getting Ten-Tec involved in the Hamfest. Kudos to Tim O'Rourke who put in lots of hours making the arrangements and lining up forum speakers. These forums included our own Don Daso, Jim Miller and Gary Dixon as well as great presentations by Bob Heil on the science of audio applied to DXing and Contesting. Don's talk on DXing and contesting was excellent as usual. Don seems quiet much of the time, but put a computer keyboard or a microphone in front of him and he turns into a really great speaker, thanks "Rev. Don". Gary Dixon and Don also gave updates on the DX Advisory Committee and the Contest Advisory Committee. Bob Allphin, K4UEE, was a speaker for the second time in as many years, regaling the folks about

the DXpedition to the South Sandwich Islands. Wayne Mills, N7NG, gave us an update on the DXCC activity including a discussion of e-qs1 and Logbook of the World.

The DX Dinner on Saturday night was very well attended with about 65 DX and contesting enthusiasts. The board is already thinking about a site for this event for next year. With the help of Paul Ponak, AD4IE, and Tim O'Rourke, KG4CHX, CDXA ran a special events station, W4C, using W4BFB's Kenwood TS570 and Gary Dixon's R5 vertical on the roof of the Merchandise Mart.

The Ducie Island expedition gets underway this week, so go get 'em!

73, Bill, W4WNT

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

## Neuman, N4RF, Reaches Honor Roll

An observant Bob Burton noticed that Rick Neuman, N4RF, had earned a position on the DXCC Honor Roll in the September, 2001 listing.

Your editor called Rick to congratulate him on behalf of the membership of CDXA. Rick confirmed that he now has 326 confirmed and 332 total entities.

On behalf of the CDXA membership, allow us to publicly offer congratulations to Rick for this great personal attainment. Well done!!

## DXing 101 Book Heads to Durham

You will recall in the February issue of the Pileup that Don Daso made available a copy of Rod Dinkins (AC6V) new book DXing 101. At the Charlotte Hamfest, we held a contest to give away the book. The criteria for winning was to add one's age in years to the months since being licensed as a General Class or higher operator, and the person with the lowest total was to be awarded the book. This criteria was established to ensure the book went to someone either who had recently gained HF privileges, was young or both. Signup sheets were available at the CDXA booth and at the WCARS VE session held on Saturday.

We had ten entries dropped into the box. The winner was Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA, of Durham, NC. The book will go out to Mary this week. Mary's General ticket was issued on July 30, 2001. We're all hoping that Mary can begin to enjoy chasing DX with her new privileges and an excellent resource at her side to guide her efforts. Congratulations, Mary!

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
© Copyright 2002

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC  
1929 Ewing Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28203

## The Passion of Bob Heil

If you want to experience someone who has a passion for ham radio and audio, make sure you don't miss a chance to hear Bob Heil of Heil Sound talk about it. If you were at the Charlotte Hamfest on the weekend of March 9-10, you had two separate chances.

Bob was quick to point out that his passion for and international acclaim for expertise in audio arose naturally from his childhood experiences as an Amateur Radio enthusiast. At age 15, Bob's parents used to drive him to the Fox Theater so he could play the giant theatre pipe organ for movie performances. His interest in audio began with the "retirement" of some superlarge speakers from this theater. His skill in audio was catapulted to the forefront by Jerry Garcia of THE GRATEFUL DEAD when their sound truck became unavailable for a concert, and the Fox Theatre people called for some assistance from "that kid out in the suburbs who has some good audio gear".

Bob's lessons in stacking eight, 8 over 8 VHF beams (yes, folks, 128 elements) to produce in-phase RF power was used in his homegrown audio system. Jerry Garcia had never heard such sound, before. Nor had the rest of the world. Bob had been helping local artisans such as REO Speedwagon and Dan Fogelberg with audio long before they became famous and before he was "found" by Jerry Garcia. Forced to go "on tour" with "The



Bob Heil getting "cranked up" in his presentation on "The Science of Audio".

Dead" for a period, he ended up spending most of the next 10 or 12 years with "The Who". During that period he became nationally acclaimed as the guy who

(Continued on page 4)

## Big Brother IS Watching You!

By John Scott, K8YC

When George Orwell penned the novel **1984** in the year 1949 and introduced the phrase “Big Brother is Watching You” he foretold of a time in the future when the notion of individual privacy disappears. I recall approaching the year 1984 realizing that I had far less anonymity than I knew as a youngster. When my social security card was issued in the 1950s, there was a legend on the bottom of it which read “Not For Identification”, but by 1984, the government required a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) on each bank account. For most people your TIN is your Social Security Number.

But that was all BEFORE the Internet! Today, hardly a month goes by that I don’t get a notice on how to use the Internet to snoop into anybody else’s business for a fee. My XYL, Barb, recently brought me up short when she used one of today’s best search engine, GOOGLE ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)), to perform a search on my Radio Amateur callsign.

What do you think popped up? “Only” about 5 pages of cross referenced items. Oh yes, some were not really about me. For example, apparently some Chinese character sets appear to be K8YC when converted from Chinese to an English representation. Also, a few UUENCODED documents resulted in the character string K8YC. So I found K8YC embedded in a patch to a Hewlett-Packard HPUX software module. Yet, surprisingly, I found my callsign cross referenced as the editor of the CDXA pileup with a direct link to the archived version of the Pileup. I also found references to my submissions to radio contests, comments made on the CT-User reflector, references to the issuance of my vanity callsign, and even an obscure website which tracked how many PacketCluster spots were noted to be sent by various callsigns in a month! Searches on other callsigns from our membership were similar.

What amazes me about GOOGLE is that apparently it “crawls” over thousands of websites and indexes anything which does not appear to be a trivial word of our language. How it keeps all that “stuff” is mind boggling. So, when you write what you think is an innocuous comment on a reflector that you think nobody will read, remember, BIG BROTHER REALLY IS WATCHING YOU.

## Now There’s a Tower

In late February, a group of us met at Don Daso’s (K4ZA) place to help Don reduce his tower height from 170 feet to 100 feet. As a person living under the restrictive covenants of today’s subdivision, I marveled a bit when I saw what Don and Roger (N4ZC) had put together in Don’s somewhat rural location. The antenna structure is pictured below.



It was a marvelous structure, well planned, and reportedly providing excellent results. Unfortunately, the county has some rather restrictive conditions on antenna structures, including a 100 foot maximum and a reported 150 foot setback from the front lot line. It is hard for me to comprehend that even with the statement of “reasonable accommodation” (referring to PRB-1, of course) cited in the county’s statute, that such accommodation has been made. Even if it fell, the antenna would be 50 feet from the front lot line. What do you think?

(Continued from page 2)

does the magic with rock group sound. Indeed, Bob Heil has written a book on concert hall sound systems which is considered "The Bible" by sound consultants.

Tired of being on the road, Bob returned to his passion of amateur radio, looking for a way to live a "normal" life. That led to interest in improving audio "punch" in amateur radio communications and led to the early versions of the HC-5 microphone element introduced at the Charlotte Hamfest in 1982. Twenty years later, over 100,000 HC-series elements have been manufactured. Bob introduced at least three new products in his forum which will come out this year. It has not always been easy for Bob to convince people there is science in audio, but all amateur radio manufacturers are now in step with his teachings, and all our rigs are better for it.

Why is the Heil HC-4 such a good microphone element for DXing? Because the power bandwidth is concentrated between 600 Hz and 2400 Hz with a "bump" of up to 10db in the critical middle frequencies, where most of human speech intelligence is concentrated. As Bob states, "as a concert quality microphone, it's lousy, but for getting the message through, it's the best." People are now listening!

There was mutual satisfaction on both sides that Bob Heil could return to Charlotte 20 years after it all started. Hope this little vignette fills you in on why the Heil name is so respected. *John Scott, K8YC*

### Jim Miller Knows Four-Squares

Attendees at the Charlotte Hamfest learned options for installing four-square antenna systems in a presentation by our own Jim Miller, K4SQR. Jim presented typical layouts of four-square antennae for different bands with estimated area to install these systems. Four-squares are typically used more often on the low bands where it is difficult to get a horizontal antenna at least 1/2 wavelength above ground.

An arrangement using a tall central tower with four center-fed dipoles in quadrature, ends all attached at the top with feedpoints pulled out to make vertical "Vs" and the other end secured back at the tower was particularly interesting. Velocity factors of the phased feed lines impact critical dimensions of this style antenna, so talk to Jim before starting this one, because Jim knows four-squares!

### Pictures from the Charlotte Hamfest

Below and on the next page are some photos of the Charlotte Hamfest which arrived just as the Pileup was going to press. Hope you recognize a few faces and, if you weren't with us this year, join us next year.



A Hamfest picture would not be complete without a photo of the W4 Bureau booth and the ARRL Booth. Wayne Mills and Gary Dixon are on their way toward checking QSL cards for 35 DXCC entrants. Joe Blackwell and Margaret Steere "hold down the fort" for the W4 Bureau. Margaret has recently taken on the role of "H" letter sorter and assists Joe with bureau details. Roger Burt, who managed the bureau for many years, just couldn't stay away. BTW, Gary had Wayne verify his 6 meter WAS!



An entourage from Asheville roared into Charlotte and joined us for dinner on Saturday evening. Above are Dave Anderson, KW4DA, Carl Smith, N4AA, and Karl Wilhelm, N5OFM. You may recognize Dave as A52DA who has operated from Bhutan. We truly had an "international" gathering at Valentino's.



Great way to meet new people. Above (left to right) are Barb Scott, KG4QEN (spouse of your editor), Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, (editor of the SERA Repeater Journal and son-in-law of Mac Wood), Mac Wood, W4PVT, Mrs. Turner, Bill Turner, W4WNT, Wilson Caselli, K1MIJ, Mrs. Caselli, and Bob Southworth, KI4YV.



We were honored to have these gentlemen in our midst on Saturday night. All are members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame. A person is admitted to this group only by doing something deemed very significant for the DX community. Pictured left to right: Lynn Lamb, W4NL, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, San Hutson, K5YY, Carl Smith, N4AA, Wayne Mills, N7NG, and Bob Heil, K9EID.



A chance to renew old acquaintances? You bet! Left to right: Gary Colbourne, N1GC, Al Guin, W4ZQB, Stuart Baer, W4DRP, Georgi Baer, Marsha Barr, KB4LWI, Jack Barr, WD4JWO, Linda Guin, and Nobby Mills, W4UFO.



A large group from Knoxville came to town for the Hamfest. Pictured above, Lynn Lamb, W4NL, Larry Rockfield, W6UB, Don Prater, W4TO, and George Dominick, W4UWC.



To the left are: Pat Richmond, W4PV, Steve Hart, K8EJ, Lynn Lamb, W4NL (you can see that Lynn really "circulated" at the event!) and our own Bill Tipsett, W4ZV.

## Aeronautical Mobile Listening

By Frank Dowd, K4BVQ

Some interesting listening for radio buffs is the passage of commercial aircraft across the Atlantic Ocean. Transatlantic flights use HF radios when they are out of range of VHF capability. An organization called Aeronautical Radio Inc.—ARINC for short—handles this radio traffic. Once an aircraft leaves the purview of the air traffic controllers of the country of operation, ARINC takes over.

As with our own ham experience, higher frequencies are used during daylight hours, with appropriate switching to lower frequencies in hours of darkness when crossing the North Atlantic. Each primary frequency has a backup frequency.

It helps to understand the syntax of the exchanges. The most common exchange consists of position reports. These reports provide the current position in latitude and longitude as well as flight level (FL) associated with the time of observation. Secondary and tertiary exchanges provide predicted positions in the future and also consist of latitude and longitude at the given future time. Additional data often provided for a current position report is the mach number of the aircraft, fuel status, and weather (WX), giving speed and direction of winds aloft. Weather information is useful in providing information to other aircraft as to the nature of headwinds and in flight planning.

As controllers over the Atlantic, ARINC is contacted when requests for changes in flight level or speed are needed to avoid bad weather or excessive turbulence.

You may hear the term SEL CAL, meaning selective calling. This term allows ARINC and the aircraft to set something like a PL tone on a handitalkie to squelch out only information of use to the pilot of the designated craft. The controllers at ARINC can give a visual and audible cockpit indication to a plane that it should open the squelch. Otherwise, the pilots need not listen to each and every of the multiple transmissions taking place in a typical oceanic crossing.

Below is some information for some specific frequencies if you'd like to tune in. All communication is done on Upper Sideband.

Primary Freq.	Location	Backup Freq.
17.946 MHz	NY Radio & Santa Maria Portugal	13.306 MHz
13.309	Gander, Newfoundland	8.825
13.306*		
13.270	Gander, Newfoundland	
13.288		
13.291		
13.554		
13.300		13.309
11.336*	New York	
11.330	New York	
11.309	Gander, Newfoundland	
11.342	New York	
11.345	New York	
8.906*	New York	8.825
8.879		
8.825*		
8.863*	Gander, Newfoundland	
8.933*		
8.861 & 8.846	Shanwick, nearing Europe	
6.640*	New York	3.016
6.622	Gander	2.899
6.586	New York	2.872
6.628	New York	
5.598*	Gander & Santa Maria	3.016

The frequencies with asterisks (\*) are the busier frequencies. Santa Maria is in Portugal and controls the South Atlantic traffic in conjunction with New York. Have a listen sometime!

## Old Home Week at Elkin

Each spring, one of the first hamfests of the new year in these parts is held in Elkin, North Carolina, about 20 miles north of Statesville, just off I-77. This year, your editor had a call from Nobby Mills, W4UFO, and Gary Colborne, N1GC, to join them in Elkin to kick off the Hamfest season. I had answered yes BEFORE they told me to meet them on Sunday morning at 7:00 AM in Statesville for breakfast before driving up to Elkin. That means I'd have to get up at about 6:00 AM on a Sunday morning????

Breakfast was wonderful, the day dawned with bright sun, and the temperature was vigorous but pleasant. What surprised me about Elkin was the number of CDXAers present. As Nobby, Gary and I made our way along the tables, we ran into Bruce Gragg, K4ZO, hawking some "stuff" from his shack. Picture below.



A little while later inside the small armory, I ran into Paul Ponak, AD4IE. "Waddayoudoinhere?", I asked Paul. "Oh, I often come up here to pick up a few things," came the quick reply. Back outside, Gary and Nobby were chatting with Tommy Lineberry, NW4N, a CDXAer down from Galax, Virginia. To "capture the moment", we had a passerby snap the shot below. Now things were getting serious. It's time to really shop



the tables. Hey, there's a CDXA badge. A quick check shows it's Bill Jennings, W4UNP—also selling some stuff from the shack. While I'd seen Bill's name in the roster, I'd never met him. So, it was appropriate to chew the fat for a while.

Who else did I miss? Henry Heidtmann (N4VHK)? Ed Swiderski (KU4BP)? They've been known to venture to Elkin from Winston-Salem. Sorry to say I don't know who else I missed, if anyone. Do we need a meeting post for all the CDXAers who come to Elkin for an "Eyeball QSO"? Well, maybe next year. Were you there? Let me know. —The Editor, K8YC

## Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'....

The **AA4ZZ** gang just keeps on rolling. The March, 2002 issue of QST shows the "mountaintoppers" finished fourth in the nation in the limited multioperator class for the September 2001 VHF QSO Party. This same performance rated them second in the Southeast Region, being edged out by W4IY. This group has had four top finishes in the past year's VHF contests and is surely a force in VHF contesting.

In the same issue, "Uncle Henry", N4UH, shows he can still keep up with the young bucks in the 2001 IARU HF World Championships held on July 14-15, 2001. He turned in a very fine score of 583,478 in the Phone Only portion of the contest to place him 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation. You'll recall in an article last year by "Uncle Henry" that the thrill of competing is to just prove you can "still do it". Hats off to these members.

## From the Eastern Front

Been meaning to write you about the "contest within a contest." When I first saw reference to it within the Pileup, I assumed it was an informal "in house" competition meant to stimulate interest in the contests/contest season to stimulate larger scores for the club. Having been an occasional contest participant who usually doesn't send in my score, I decided to do it in the interest of furthering the club score. I was quite surprised to come home one day back 4-5 weeks ago and find that UPS had brought me a plaque from the club. I've a number of pieces of paper on the shack walls, this is a first! Just wanted to offer my thanks to all.

—73 Roy WA4DOU  
(Roy lives east of Raleigh in Elm City. —The Editor)

## The Back Page

Wow! The Charlotte Hamfest is over. Longer days are coming. What are we going to do next? Well, there are still some contests coming up. This might be a good time to round up a few buddies and do some antenna work, now that you won't get "well digger's fingers" when climbing your tower. Or, there's always that pile of QSL cards you've been putting off mailing forever.

Here are some of the contests and QSO parties if you're still rarin' to go:

Date	Event	Comments
3/16-17	Alaska QSO Party	
3/16-17	Russian DX Contest	Page 102, March 2002 QST
3/16-17	Virginia QSO Party	Page 102, March 2002 QST
3/16-17	Montana QSO Party	Page 102, March 2002 QST
3/25	Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint	Page 102, March 2002 QST
3/30-31	CQ WW SSB WPX Contest	Page 102, March 2002 QST or Page 44, January 2002 CQ

---

**Ken Cannaday, W4NZC**  
**1929 Ewing Avenue**  
**Charlotte, NC 28203**

**w4nzc@att.net**

**First Class Mail**

*See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.*